

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E. TEM 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF POINTS OF ENTRY

FOR SULLIVAN AND ALDRICH

REF: A. SAIGON 6939

B. STATE 077816

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS AS REQUESTED IN REF B THE TEXT OF LETTER NO. 138/ LHQSTW DATED MARCH 7, 1973, FROM THE PRG'S FPJMC DELEGATION TO AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS, THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCS, CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF POINTS OF ENTRY BY THE GVN AND PRG.

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE:

THE PRGRSVN MILITARY DELEGATION OF THE CENTRAL FPJMC WARMLY GREETES THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCS AND IS HONORED TO ANSWER THE LETTER CONCERNING THE POINT, OF ENTRY, DATED 26 FEBRUARY 73, FROM THE ICCS, AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES HAVE AGREED THAT EACH PARTY WILL DESIGNATE SIX POINTS OF ENTRY FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ARMAMENTS. AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE RVN SIDE, EACH PARTY HAS IDENTIFIED THE OTHER THREE OF ITS SIX POINTS OF ENTRY.

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HOWEVER, SOME NEGATIVE FACTORS STILL EXIST AND THUS DELAY COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON POINTS OF ENTRY BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

A. DUE TO THE PERSISTENT REFUSAL OF THE RVN, THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES HAVE NOT YET STIPULATED THE PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE REPLACEMENT OF ARMAMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 7 OF THE AGREEMENT, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THE NON- INTRODUCTION OF NEW ARMAMENTS INTO SVN AND TO INSURE EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL BY THE TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND THE ICCS AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 7 OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE CEASE- FIRE IN SVN AND THE JMC.

B. DUE TO THE DELAY CAUSED BY THE RVN, THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES HAVE NOT YET REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JMC TEAMS AT THE POINTS OF ENTRY AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 11 G OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED PROTOCOL.

C. THE RVN HAS FURTHER AVOIDED DISCUSSION TO AGREE ON CORRIDORS AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 3 B OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED PROTOCOL SO THAT ARMAMENTS CAN BE LEGALLY AND SAFELY INTRODUCED IN ORDER TO AVOID CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A POTENTIAL FOR ENGENDERING ARMED CONFLICTS.

D. THE RVN HAS ALSO PERSISTED IN ITS DEMAND THAT THE TWO PARTIES DESIGNATE POINTS OF ENTRY WITHOUT DISCUSSING MEASURES TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE POINTS OF ENTRY. THIS IS SUFFICIENT PROOF TO ASSERT THAT THERE IS A SINSITER SCHEME BY THE RVN TO IDENTIFY THE PRG POINTS OF ENTRY TO ATTACK AND BESIEGE THEM. THIS HAS OCCURRED IN DUC CO (SEE OUR LETTER 81/ LHQSTW, DATED 12 FEBRUARY 73, ADDRESSED TO THE ICCS).

(2) THE PRG BELIEVES THAT THE RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE DELIBERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES AS STATED ABOVE STILL FAIL TO MEET THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS OF LEGALLY AND SAFELY INTRODUCE ARMAMENTS, MUNITIONS, AND WAR MATERIAL INTO SVN.

THE PRG DELEGATION UNDERSTANDS THAT THE DESIGNATION AND USE OF POINTS OF ENTRY WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ISSUES:

A) PRESCRIBE MODALITIES, MEASURES AND ORGANIZATION FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL

AND SUPERVISION OF REPLACEMENT OF WEAPONS.

B) PRESCRIBE MEASURES TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR POINTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTRY.

C) PRESCRIBE MILITARY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS TO BE INTRODUCED, AND WORK OUT MEASURES TO AVERT ARMED CONFLICTS ON THESE CORRIDORS.

AS THE ABOVE ISSUES HAVE NOT BEEN SOLVED YET AND THE RVN IS ATTEMPTING TO SHIRK EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION, THERE IS A

NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT PERMISSION TO BRING WEAPONS THROUGH RVN POINTS OF ENTRY WILL CREATE A GAP THROUGH WHICH THE RVN COULD SPEED UP THE ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION OF WEAPONS INTO SVN AND CREATE A DANGER EMANATING FROM THEIR RVN WHICH WILL SERIOUSLY THREATEN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE.

THEREFORE, THE RECENT OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF THREE POINTS OF ENTRY BY THE RVN TO THE ICCS WAS MERELY ONE OF ITS MANEUVERS AIMED AT LEGALIZING ITS SCHEME AND TO CHEAT IN THE REPLACEMENT OF WEAPONS.

(3) THE PRG DEMANDS THAT THE RVN SHOW A MORE UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE SO THAT THE TWO PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUE OF POINTS OF ENTRY. TO THIS VIEW, THE PRG WILL OFFICIALLY INTRODUCE TO THE ICCS THE POINTS OF ENTRY TO BE USED BY THE PRG.

ON THIS OCCASION, THE PRG MILITARY DELEGATION CONVEYS ITS RESPECTFUL GREETINGS TO THE ICCS CHAIRMAN .

(SIGNED)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL TRAN VAN TRA
CHIEF OF PRG MILITARY DELEGATION
CENTRAL FOUR- PARTY JMC
END TEXT QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FINAL PHRASE OF PARAGRAPH

(1) OF TEXT SHOULD READ " EACH PARTY HAS IDENTIFIED TO THE OTHER THREE OF ITS SIX POINTS OF ENTRY." THIS CONFORMS TO FACT THAT ONLY THREE POINTS OF ENTRY HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY EACH SIDE. WE HAVE BEEN AS YET UNABLE TO LOCATE VIETNAMESE TEXT TO DETERMINE ORIGINAL MEANING, BUT IT APPEARS TO US THAT ERROR IN ENGLISH TEXT
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